

Arkansas FFA Alumni Council Meeting  
Tuesday, March 30, 2004  
Little Rock, AR

A called meeting of the Arkansas FFA Alumni Council met Tuesday, March 30, 2004, in the Landing Room at the Little Rock Airport Holiday Inn. The opening prayer was lead by Mr. James Potter.

At 6:50 p.m., the meeting was called to order and the minutes were reviewed. Mr. Potter made a motion to accept the minutes as written; the motion was seconded and passed. Mr. Fletcher then gave an oral treasurer's report. Mrs. Nowlin was unable to prepare a written report since she has been caring for Mr. Nowlin who has not been doing very well. We had income of \$196.00 for memberships paid from Sheridan and Paragould affiliates and a \$4,319.50 income from the Alumni Auction. Expenses were four scholarships at \$250.00 each and National dues for Sheridan and Paragould. There was a discussion on the students who re-applied for their scholarships. Mr. Potter made a motion to accept the treasurer's report; the motion was seconded and carried.

Mr. Fletcher then congratulated Paragould on the excellent job they did hosting the State Alumni Convention. He also noted the excellent auction items. Rodney said he appreciated the compliment; everyone worked hard and he was happy with the participation.

Mr. Fletcher noted that they are trying to get ready for the upcoming FFA Convention, state horse judging contest, and several other activities, and they are running short-handed in the office. The scholarship applications are also in, and he will need volunteers from the alumni to help got through the applications and would also need help getting the auction ready for the State FFA Convention.

Rodney mentioned that he was working with chapters in the Crowley's Ridge area, trying to get them to start up Alumni affiliates in the area. There are seven agriculture teachers who were interested.

We then discussed the question of having school or chapter baskets at the FFA Convention; this was a suggestion from a parent in the state. There was a question as to whether there would be room to display baskets in the convention area as suggested. The question was discussed to display a few of the baskets on silent auction to try and bring more interest in to the live auction. It was decided that a letter would be e-mailed to the agriculture teachers asking for items for the auction and that baskets would be welcomed, but that any donation would be appreciated.

Old business discussed was tying up the Alumni State Convention. Rodney provided a written ledger of all expenses and income during the convention. A copy will be placed in the secretary's book. There were three registrations paid, but for various reasons those people could not attend, and Rodney wanted to know if we needed to reimburse

those registration fees. The general feeling was that we did not need to reimburse the fees.

There was also a question of whether we needed to pay Greene County Tech for the fish fry. Larry Cupp said that he didn't think they would need reimbursement but would discuss it at their next meeting and let us know if we needed to help them out with those expenses.

New business discussed was the upcoming auction at the FFA Convention, June 3. Mr. Fletcher also asked Rodney to be present during the convention to pass out scholarships and to introduce the council members. We have been awarding five \$500.00 scholarships, and there was a discussion on either adding more scholarships or giving a larger sum per scholarship. Mr. Fletcher reported that we usually have 90 to 100 scholarship applications each year with 36 scholarships available through endowments, etc. We discussed our money available and options available. After much discussion, a motion was made to increase scholarships to eight \$500.00 scholarships. The motion passed. Mr. Fletcher then asked for two alumni members to come to Camp Couchdale May 4 to go through the scholarship applications. After much discussion, Rodney McClelland and Larry Holland said they would check their calendars and try to attend.

There was a discussion on the WLC Scholarship from National. It is a \$300.00 scholarship that covers Yz cost of one member to attend. This has been awarded in the past by giving it to the chapter that has turned in its alumni roster and dues as well as an application for a FFA member to attend WLC. Larry Holland made a motion for the state alumni to pick up the additional cost and to award a full WLC scholarship to a chapter that has an active FFA alumni. The scholarship would be awarded after all WLC applications are received from all active alumni chapters and then drawn out of a hat. The motion was seconded and passed.

A motion was made for our next council meeting to take place at the FFA Convention June 3. The motion was seconded and passed.

Council adjourned at 8:24 p.m.

Rodney McClelland, President  
Karen Holland, Secretary